

Dub & Reggae by Steve Barker

Yannick Franck presents Mt Gemini *Just Like A River*

Sub Rosa DL/LP

This column has been known to journey to the outer reaches of dub/reggae's influence, and the latest project of Yannick Franck (Orphan Swords, RAUM) nudges such explorations to the edge. His new project Mt Gemini is a deconstruction of ska, rocksteady and boss reggae from the 1950s to the early 70s, using loops, distortion, compression, speed and tempo variations plus the usual bank of studio effects, delay, reverb and chorus. The result can only be described as hallucinatory and sometimes disturbing – like gaming machines programmed to skank out of control but heard from three or four rooms away in a fevered dream, a haunting of nostalgia that cannot be quite grasped. Apparently Franck generates these strangely filleted tributes in different states of altered consciousness, although the closing track, a version of The Pioneers' "Long Shot Kick The Bucket" – a paean to a post-race dying thoroughbred – slows down the tune's trumpet reveille intro to a dirge-like slur, stretched then vari-speeded over nine minutes. At times it sounds like Don Ayler on a downer, and then part of Terry Riley's joyous "Poppy Nogood & The Phantom Band". Remarkable!

